

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01

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R 250748Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3045

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY EOUL

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW, CH

SUBJECT: PRESS CALLS FOR FORD VISIT TO ROC

REF: A) TAIPEI 5900 (NOTAL); B) TAIPEI 5768 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PRESIDENT FORD WILL VISIT SEOUL IN NOVEMBER FOLLOWING JAPAN TOUR HAS STIRRED CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO TO EXPRESS EDITORIALLY WIDELY FELT HOPE THAT PRESIDENT WILL INCLUDE TAIPEI IN HIS ASIAN ITINERARY. EDITORIAL WRITERS THEMSELVES APPEAR TO RECOGNIZE THIS IS UNLIKELY, AND THAT PRESIDENT FORD

INTENDS PRESS ON WITH US-PRC NORMALIZATION (REF B). AS TIME FOR VISIT DRAWS NEAR, IT IS LIKELY THAT LOCAL CONCERN WILL CENTER ON FEAR THAT IF NEXT STOP AFTER SEOUL IS NOT TAIPEI, IT MAY BE PEKING. END SUMMARY.

2. SEPTEMBER 23 CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO (CKSP) EDITORIAL WELCOMED PRESIDENT FORD'S ANTICIPATED VISIT TO ASIA SO SOON AFTER TAKING OFFICE AS CONFIRMATION HE IS "PAYING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GREAT ATTENTION TO ASIA." EDITORIAL WENT ONTO NOTE SOMEWHAT DISINGEN-

UOUSLY "WE ARE PUZZLED THERE HAVE BEEN NO INDICATIONS THAT FORD MAY VISIT REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN HIS ASIAN TRIP" AND SPECULATED "WHETHER TAIPEI SHOULD BE INCLUDED ... MUST STILL BE UNDER CONSIDERATION BY AMERICAN OFFICIALS." CKSP EXPRESSED ITS BELIEF THAT EXCLUDING ROC WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE -- "ESPECIALLY" AFTER HE HAS DECIDED TO VISIT SEOUL.

3. NOTING PRESIDENT FORD HAS NOT VISITED ROC SINCE 1953, CKSP SAID "AT A TIME WHEN THE U.S. IS RE-EVALUATING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN ASIA, IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT NEEDS TO SEE FOR HIMSELF LIVING CONDITIONS AND COMMON WILL OF 16 MILLION PEOPLE OF FREE CHINA." COMMENTING ON PRESIDENT'S 1972 VISIT TO PRC, EDITORIAL SAID "IF HE CAN MAKE COMPARISON OF SITUATION IN TAIWAN WITH THAT OF MAINLAND, IT WILL BE A GREAT HELP TO HIM IN FURTHER UNDERSTANDING WHOLE PROBLEM OF CHINA." CKSP ATTEMPTED JUSTIFY PRESIDENTIAL VISIT WITH NOTATION THAT "SO-CALLED NORMALIZATION OF PRC-US RELATIONS STEMS MAINLY FROM THE NEEDS OF THE MAOISTS"; AS LONG AS STRATEGIC FACTORS REMAIN UNCHANGED, MOVES US MAKES IN ITS AND "FREE WORLD" INTERESTS WILL NOT DAMAGE "SUPERFICIAL RECONCILIATION" BETWEEN US AND PRC. CKSP ALSO TOOK VIEW THAT "THERE IS NO DOUBT PRC DOES NOT WANT TO SEE FORD VISIT ASIA WHETHER TRIP INCLUDES TAIWAN OR NOT: EVEN IF US DOES NOT TAKE JAPAN AS ITS WEST PACIFIC PARTNER AND DOES NOT KEEP CLOSE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ROK AND ROC, MAOISTS WILL STILL CONSIDER THE U.S. AS THEIR ENEMY. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING HOPE THAT USG AND THE GROC WILL UNDERTAKE NECESSARY NEGOTIATIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR INCLUSION OF TAIPEI IN PRESIDENT FORD'S ITINERARY.

4. COMMENT: THE HOPES THAT PRESIDENT WILL INCLUDE TAIPEI IN HIS ASIAN TOUR HAVE INCREASED SINCE ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANNED STOP IN SOUTH KOREA. SHOULD ADDITIONAL STOPS BE ADDED, WE WOULD EXPECT TO SEE CONSIDERABLE GRUMBLING OVER WHAT WOULD BE PERCEIVED LOCALLY AS A SLIGHT TO TRADITIONAL AMERICAN ALLY; HOWEVER, CKSP'S ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY A STOP IN TAIPEI IN THE CONTEXT OF CURRENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US CHINA POLICY, REPRESENTS INDIRECT RECOGNITION THAT PRESIDENT IN FACT IS UNLIKELY TO COME TO TAIWAN. IN A SENSE, THEREFORE, DRUM-BEATING BECOMES SOMETHING OF AN EXERCISE IN BUILDING UP EXPECTATIONS WHICH EDITORIAL WRITERS THEMSELVES KNOW ARE LIKELY TO BE DISAPPOINTED. NET EFFECT WILL ONLY CONFIRM THEIR ANXIETIES ABOUT PRESIDENT FORD'S PRESSING ON WITH US-PRC NORMALIZATION (REF B). AS TIME FOR VISIT DRAWS NEAR, ADDITIONAL FEARS

AND RUMORS OF POSSIBLE PEKING STOP MAY SURFACE.
UNGER

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